

Volume 60, Issue 12

December 2013

The Mint Master



Special points of interest:

- Greetings — Robie Cagle
- Mini Exhibit — None
- News & Views—None
- Coin Quiz — None
- Refreshments — Christmas Dinner
- Spotlight – None

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

Hello all! We had a very busy meeting in November and were able to accomplish a lot, including needed elections and our Bourse night.

Our recent coin show was the best we have ever had and as a result the prizes for the Christmas Dinner will be the best we've ever had. Please be sure to attend and we will be looking forward to seeing you there.

If you are a Board Member we have asked that you come at 5:30pm to help set up tables and to stay after for a few minutes to put ta-

bles up. This will help Collin who has volunteered the building for our use and who will be doing janitorial duties for this event. We will start the dinner a 6:30 pm promptly. Members may start showing up at 6pm to get their tickets and find a table.

Catering will be by Vanisha Griggs (The Fairy Princess company, Yes the spelling is correct!)

and the menu will be;

A choice of Stuffed Chicken and Cream Sauce or Glazed Pork

Rice Pilaf or Chive Potatoes

Broccoli



Assorted deserts including Cakes and Pies
Soda Pop or Water and a roll

The price will be \$14 per person (Adults and youth) and if you haven't paid before the 10th you are more than welcome to pay as you arrive.

Robie Cagle

President

DECEMBER'S PROGRAM—Christmas Dinner

CHANGE OF LOCATION !!!!!

Remember that we will not, I repeat - will not be having our Christmas dinner at our usual location due to circumstances beyond our control. We will be meeting on December 10th at 6:30pm at Welby Elementary, located at;

4130 West 9580 South

South Jordan





FEATURE ARTICLE - Branch Mint Proofs

The subject this month is “Branch Mint” Proof coinage. These coins are very rare with the largest estimated mintage of any issue being 24 coins. Branch mint proofs are occasionally offered for sale at major auctions and it is not unusual for them to attain sales figures into the 6 digits. For one who is interested in these rarities they cannot be found listed in the ‘Red Book,’ Trends and price lists, or virtually any similar numismatic publication. There have been just a few books and articles written concerning them over the past 50 years and much of the information is conjecture, speculation, and controversial. Yet, with the advent of certified coin encapsulation many of them have found their way into slabs which has brought about the additional certified grade of ‘Specimen,’ or ‘SP.’ A good number of these ‘so-called’ branch mint proofs have been identified as specimens. Some issues with a population greater than a single coin, (there are several branch mint proofs known by the existence of just a single coin), have been slabbed under both specifications, Proof and Specimen. This only adds to the speculation and conjecture and all expert numismatics do not always agree. The first person to really delve into this subject was Walter Breen and they

were a chapter in his 1977 book entitled “Colonial and US Proof Coinage.” He listed just about every branch mint proof known as well as over a dozen coins that he deemed as proofs which are currently untraced or otherwise presently not thought to be an actual proof. The earliest recognized proof coinage is dated 1817 and the Philadelphia mint didn’t begin selling proofs to collectors until 1857 at which time accurate records were kept. Prior to 1857 the proofs executed at the Philadelphia mint were random and have a very small mintage. Generally these early proofs were created to be given to dignitaries or early collectors who had connections directly with the mint. Therefore the expertise for manufacturing proof coinage existed only at Philadelphia whereas the proofs coins minted at San Francisco, New Orleans, Carson City and Denver relied on mint employees who seldom or never created proofs. Generally the proofs at these branch mints were not quite up to the quality and standards at Philadelphia, but there are some that are quite amazing. This is the primary reason for many of these branch mint proofs or as what is presently called presentation striking or specimen coinage to receive the grade of ‘SP’ or ‘Specimen.’ In examining many of these coins it is clear that much

more care was spent in creating them than just the exceptional business strike which may have been one of the first coins struck with new dies and fortuitously received special care over the last century. This is extremely evident in the Morgan dollar series. There are many ‘Proof-like’ and ‘Cameo’ coins which to many may appear to be proofs. There are only four recognized proof branch mint Morgan dollars which have documentation relating to their striking. The other branch mint proof or specimen Morgan’s are recognized for what they are but the reason for the creation is a matter of speculation rather than hard documentation. This aspect of documentation for branch mint proofs is widely researched, some have reasons which were documented, some have events which are speculated to have led to their creation while others have little or no reason as to why they were struck. As far as the certified grades both PCGS and NGC have used Proof and Specimen with referring to these coins.

ANACS has also certified branch mint proofs using both designations. The following list is complete as possible list of presently recognized branch mint proof coinage. -

Continued on the next page

Branch Mint Proofs

*1838-O Half Dollar
 *1839-O Half Dollar
 *1839-O Dime
 1844-O Half Eagle
 *1844-O Eagle
 1851-O Dollar
 *1852-O Half Dollar
 *1853-O Eagle
 *1854-O Half Dollar
 1854-S Double Eagle
 *1855-S Quarter
 *1855-S Half
 *1855-S \$3
 *1856-O Double Eagle
 *1861-O Half Dollar
 1871-CC Half
 *1875-S Twenty Cent
 *1876-CC Dime
 *1876-CC Half
 *1879-O Dollar
 *1882-CC Dollar
 *1883-CC Dollar
 *1884-CC Dollar
 *1891-O Quarter
 *1891-O Dime
 *1893-CC Dollar
 *1894-S Dime
 1895-O Half
 1896-O Dollar
 *1906-D Dime
 *1906-D Double Eagle
 *1907-D Double Eagle
 *1921-S Dollar

* Certified PR or SP

The definition or criteria for a coin to receive either a Specimen or Proof designation is in reality a moving target. As stated, the identification of these coins is quite open to

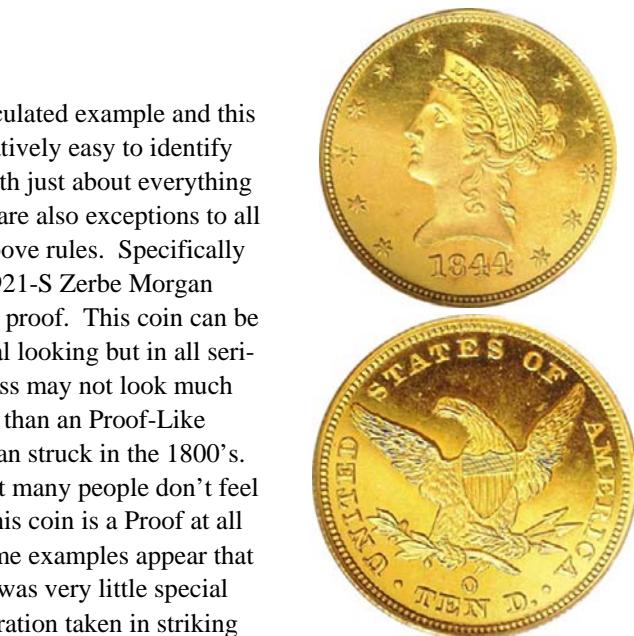
interpretation and not all experts agree. Essentially the basic criteria for a Proof coin is one that has been struck twice, both the dies and planchet have been specially prepared and polished, the rims are usually squared or possibly have a wire rim, and the details are far superior to a normal strike due to heavier striking pressure, multiple strikes, and specially prepared dies or all of the above. Generally the closer the branch mint proof mimics these features the more likely it will receive a Proof designation. If for some reason any of the above details are weak, incomplete or missing but there is significant evidence that the result was conclusive that there were special efforts in striking the coin it may very well be awarded a Specimen or SP designation. One additional visual effect of these coins is that the lettering and devices appear to float on top of the field rather than just raise up above the field. Examine a modern proof with an

uncirculated example and this is relatively easy to identify. As with just about everything there are also exceptions to all the above rules. Specifically the 1921-S Zerbe Morgan dollar proof. This coin can be special looking but in all seriousness may not look much better than an Proof-Like Morgan struck in the 1800's. In fact many people don't feel that this coin is a Proof at all as some examples appear that there was very little special preparation taken in striking this coin.

In summary, branch mint proof and specimen coinage is something amazing to behold. Many are beautiful while others are examples of historic events at various mints such as the opening or closing of a facility, first coinage of a type struck, or anyone's guess as to why someone decided to create a special coin. More importantly, is the fact that many of these coins survived. Just imagine what didn't survive. DOUG NYHOLM

2014 Presidential Portrait Designs Released

Designs for the 2014 Presidential \$1 Coins became public Tuesday when the United States Mint released line art images of their obverses or heads side.



COUNTERFEIT CORNER - CURRENCY

REAL

FAKE



Have you ever received or encountered a counterfeit piece of currency? We have all heard about counterfeiting and seen cashiers hold your note up in the air and look for whatever they are looking for. (of course this is the stripe or watermark) I personally believe that with the inability of most counter persons to make change without a calculator that half of them don't even know what they are looking at. And then there is the notorious black pen that many of them swipe across your bill in order to verify that the paper is good. I like to tell them that they are committing a felony when they do that to see their reaction. This is based upon the law about defacing currency which basically states that you can do anything with your money you want, after all you own it, but the law states you cannot deface money and then return it to circulation. I personally have only encountered

just a single piece of counterfeit currency in my life. It was a bleached \$5 note and then reprinted to resemble a \$100 note. The pen test would pass as the paper was good US currency paper (i.e. it was originally a \$5) however the Mylar stripe still indicated a \$5 instead of a \$100. This note was encountered in a stack of \$100's and it was good enough that if you were just flipping and counting for a total you could very easily miss it. If you took the note out and singly examined it, yes, you would probably easily identify it. Even so with an estimated \$200 million in counterfeit US bills in circulation worldwide it is quite uncommon that you will encounter a fake bill in your daily transactions. None-the-less, each of us should be aware because if we do get a fake we are out the money because there is no system in place to reimburse you for a counterfeit bill.

Doug Nyholm

ANNOUNCEMENTS - READ ALL ABOUT IT

EXHIBIT WINNERS AT OUR RECENT COIN SHOW

Darin Lee won Best of Show and People's Choice for his exhibit of Buffalo/Bison on coins, with first place in U.S. Coins going to Tom Davis for proof Lincoln Cents, and Irv Ratcliffe winning first place in the Miscellaneous category for his exhibit of post cards.

JANUARY MEETING ADGENDA

January will be an auction, with a 5 percent fee for items that sell, and a 2.5 percent fee for items that do not meet reserve or are protected and do not sell. Limit of 5 items per consigner. Please get list of items emailed to me no later than Sunday January 8, 2014. (Again, please note. Items not sold due to a reserve too high will be assessed a 2.5% fee.)



1. How many Statehood quarters are required to complete a complete 'RED BOOK' set?
 - A. 100
 - B. 150
 - C. 220
 - D. 204

2. According to the 'RED BOOK' what is the lowest mintage of any Sacagawea dollar?
 - A. 380,000
 - B. 5,000
 - C. 1,820,000
 - D. 2,189,000

3. What year saw the last circulating US coin having silver in its composition?
 - A. 1964
 - B. 1965
 - C. 1969
 - D. 1970

4. Another 'RED BOOK' question. How many Lincoln Memorial Cents have a value of greater than \$500?
 - A. 3
 - B. 4
 - C. 5
 - D. 6

5. What date in the Franklin Half series contains a coin referred to as "Bugs Bunney?"
 - A. 1949
 - B. 1953
 - C. 1955
 - D. 1961

NOVEMBER QUIZ ANSWERS 1. In God We Trust 2. A, B, & C. 3. Deo Est Gloria 4. 50 5. Roanoke Half

IDENTIFY THE COIN BELOW?

1793 Large Cent



IDENTFY THE COIN BELOW?

1814 Bust Half in Platinum



Picture Quiz

Where would you find the vignette shown here? **\$10 Silver Certificates 1886-1908**

Who is in the picture? **Thomas A. Hendricks**

What is the nickname of where it appears? **Tombstone Notes**

Why is the nickname appropriate? **He was our Vice President but died only after 8 months in office.**



BOOK REVIEW – American Gold And Platinum Eagles



This isn't really a book review as I have not yet received a copy of this book. However I wanted to mention this book because of the possibility of its great value as a stocking stuffer (if you have extra big feet) or as a Christmas gift.

It appears to be a great companion for the recent book on U.S. Silver Eagles but this time it covers gold and platinum Eagles. I know that many of you are collectors and aficionados of the many bullion coins which have been released by the US mint over the past several decades and that these coins, while technically bullion, are avidly collected by series and date by many collectors. I personally believe that many of the proof platinum eagles which have a different design each year are some of the most beautiful coins the mint has created in recent history. Unfortunately for most of us we cannot afford to collect several ounces of platinum or

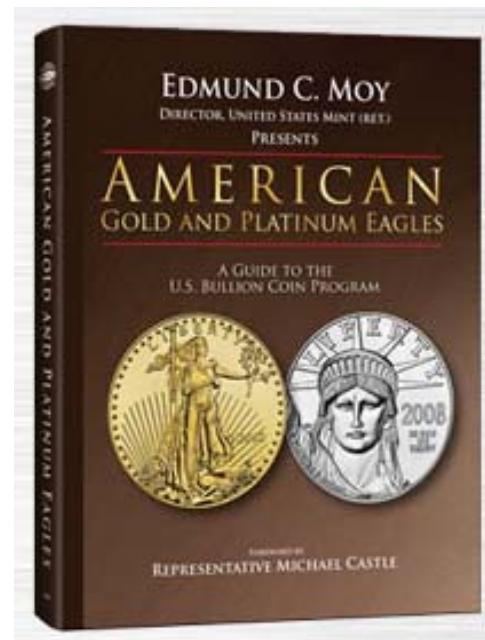
for that matter gold each year.

This book is the next best way to enjoy these beautiful coins and would make a great addition to anyone's library.

It is presently available for \$29.95 directly from Whitman books or should be at your local dealer or bookstore soon.

Even less expensive at Amazon.com

Doug Nyholm



BOARD MEMBER PLANNING MEETING - January 8th at 7PM {NOTICE–NOTICE-NOTICE}

Attention Board Members: We are having a planning meeting on January 8th at 7pm at the fire station located at 789 W 2935 S SLC.

Robie Cagle

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'PRIZES' AND 'BUY OF THE MONTH'



**THERE WILL BE
NO 'BUY OF THE
MONTH' DUE TO
OUR CHRISTMAS
DINNER.**

**HOWEVER THERE
WILL BE OVER 150
NOT AVERAGE
PRIZES BUT
GREAT PRIZES
INCLUDING GOLD.**



CLUB OFFICERS



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**Doug Nyholm – Newslet.
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**Bob Campbell – Bourse
801-467-8636**

**Lavar Burton—Hospitality
801-**

*Newly Elected
officers Daran
Lee and Lavar
Burton and his
wife as shown
in red. Thank
you and
Congratulations*

BOARD MEMBERS

**Lavar Burton
801-255-1629**

**Tom Davis
801-273-7519**

**Lee McKenzie
801-349-6838**

**Larry Kimura
801-282-2333**

**Phil Clark
801-523-9199**



YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

UPDATE ON NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS' MEDALS,
2014 BASEBALL COMMEMORATIVE COINS, AND A TIDBIT

CODE

TALKERS' MEDALS:

Long overdue recognition of the selfless dedication and valor demonstrated by the Native American Code Talkers during World War I and II became a reality on November 20th, 2013. A formal public ceremony was conducted in the Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol where Congressional Gold Medals were presented to representatives of 25 of the 33 tribes and/or nations identified in the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008, Public Law 110-420. Each tribe or nation's medal has a unique obverse and reverse design pairing which best represents the tribe or nation. A more private ceremony, later the same day, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian was conducted to present duplicate individual silver medals to those Code Talkers who were involved in wartime activities or their next of kin. The Navajo Code Talkers were not included in this legislation since they were recognized in 2000 under the Navajo Code Talkers Congressional Gold Medal Act, Public Law 106-554. While none of us will probably ever be able to own one of these medals, the legislation does provide for production of bronze

duplicates of the gold and silver medals. As with many previous Congressional medals, the mint is offering bronze medals in both the 3" and 1.5" sizes. The 3" medals are available for all 25 tribes or nations and the 1.5" medals are available for 11 of the tribes or nations with the remainder to be available in June, 2014. Information on pricing and availability can be found at the Mint

tion for the remaining 8 tribes/nations is pending.

BASEBALL COMMEMORATIVE COINS

The research and development efforts associated with the 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin series has proven to be extremely challenging, to say the least, for the U.S. Mint. The planned minting of domed coins with both convex and concave surfaces revealed many problem areas such as production tooling fabrication; die life; allowable dome height; relief and lettering height, shape, and positioning, criticality of die alignment, press striking pressures, die orientation (hammer/anvil relationship), and metal flow issues associated with surface texture. As of Oct. 28, 2013 the half dollar accounts for 96% of the 67,000 test strikes. This overall effort has been costly and one has to wonder how those costs will be recouped. Will this novelty commemorative series be too costly for most collectors or will the Mint simply spread recovery across all of its products?



web site www.usmint.gov. For this collector, this is welcome news and I have already placed an order. I believe the 34 medals, if one includes the Navajo Code Talkers medal; will make a wonderful collection with the potential for some great historically relevant discussions concerning Native American contributions during World War II. Recogni-

TIDBIT A Silver Eagle should weigh 31.101 grams. Do you have any that weigh only 26.73 grams? You may have a wrong planchet error. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.* **PHIL CLARK**



**PO Box 65054
Salt Lake City
Utah 84165**

**Mint Master Editor
Doug Nyholm
Doug.nyholm@comcast.net**

Your suggestions, written articles, and input is always welcome and appreciated.

We are on the Web

???????

UNS Membership Application

Application for Membership in the Utah Numismatic Society

Name(s) of Applicants: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

How would you prefer to receive the newsletter?

E-Mail / Preferred (This option reduces club expenses)

Regular USPS Mail

Sponsor" _____

ANNUAL DUES

\$30 Family

\$20 Adult

\$5 Junior / Under 18

When & Where We Meet

Second Tuesday of Each Month at 7:00 PM

Columbus community Center

2531 South 400 East / Salt Lake City, UT 84115

CHRISTMAS DINNER

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR
CHRISTMAS DINNER THIS YEAR
WILL NOT BE AT OUR USUAL
MEETING LOCATION!!**

**THE LOCATION WILL BE AT THE
WELBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN
SOUTH JORDAN.**

**ADDITIONALLY THE DINNER WILL
BEGIN AT 6:30 PM SO REMEMBER TO
COME A BIT EARLY.**

**December 10th at 6:30pm
at Welby Elementary, located at;
4130 West 9580 South**

